(a) whether it is a fact that telecom facilities in the rural areas around Tirupati are not being operated efficiently;

(b) if so, the reasons for not developing telecom facilities in rural areas;

(c) whether STD to Yerpedu and surrounding villages is usually inaccessible; and

(d) what steps Government have proposed to improve telecom facilities in rural areas around Tirupati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. The performance in rural areas around Tirupati is satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present Yerpedu has no STD access. However, it is connected to Tirupati on inter-dialing and has got access to all the group exchanges connected to Tirupati Short Distance Charging Centre. It is proposed to provide STD facilities to Yerpedu during 1995-96 subject to availability of resources.

(d) It is proposed to replace the electro-mechanical exchanges in rural areas with electronic exchanges, provide suitable media to extend group-dialing/STD facilities to various exchanges in Tirupati rural areas in a phased manner subject to availability of resources.

Wrongful disconnection of telephones by MTNL

7065. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various telecom authorities wrongfully disconnect the phones of the subscribers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that MTNL was penalised for wrongful dis-connection of phones by a consumer court;

(c) if so, how the DoT propose to properly synchronise billing department with the operations department; and

(d) what steps Government propose to streamline such operations in all Telecom regions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. In stray cases however, the telephone may get wrongfully disconnected due to non-receipt of payment particulars from Post Office/Banks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are being made to ensure that payment particulars from various collection agencies reach the computer cell in time and data entry into computer is done correctly. A new computerised comprehensive Financial Management System is under implementation at MTNL Delhi & Bombay.

(d) The following steps have been taken to streamline the operations in all Telecom regions in the country:-

In addition to telephonic reminders prior to disconnection of the facilitiy on account of non-payment registered reminders are also issued to subscribers of non-electronic exchanges. In the case of subscribers connected to Electronic Exchanges, in lieu of the registered notice, the outgoing facility is withdrawn for 15 days. The incoming facility is also withdrawn if the payment is not received within 15 days.

Computerisation of TR billing and accounting is being introduced to account for payments quickly. The matter is also taken up with Postal authorities for expediting the payment particulars.

Perspective plans for telephone requirements in Sholapur

7066. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perspective plans for telephone requirements of the growing city of Sholapur for 2005,2010,2015 or 2020 have been prepared, keeping in view the pace of development and growing needs of the town for additional telecom facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. Perspective Plans for Sholapur have not been drawn up for the period mentioned in the question. However, telephone

demand has been projected for Sholapur upto the year 2005.

(b) Telephone demand projected for 2005 for Sholapur is 5021.

टेलीफोन निदेशिका (टेलीफोन डाइरेक्ट्री) को हिन्दी भाषा में प्रकाशित किया जाना

7067. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार टैलिफोन डाइरेक्ट्री को हिन्दी भाषा में प्रकाशित नहीं कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार ने टेलीफोन डाइरेक्ट्री को हिन्दी भाषा में प्रकाशित करने के संबंध में अब तक कौन-कौन से ठोस कदम उठाए हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) ऊपर हिन्दी भाग "क" के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों और महाराष्ट्र में अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों भाषाओं में टेलीफोन डाइरेक्टरियाँ प्रकाशित करने के अनुदेश पहले से ही विद्यमान हैं।

Amendment of Telecome Policy

7068. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to amend the 1994 Telecome Policy, following its commitments to World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the main guidelines announced by Government for entry of private sector in basic services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Main guidelines are:

(i) Only Indian Companies registered under Companies Act are eligible to participate in the tender;

(ii) Foreign equity participation is limited to 49%.

(iii) The licensing of private sector will be on the circle basis;

(iv) There will be only one operator in addition to DOT in each Circle.

(v) Their period of licence normally be for 15 years;

(vi) Private sector companies will not be licensed for the national and inter-circle long distance lines in the first instance. The position will be reviewed after 5 years.

Guidelines also provide for setting up of a Telecom Regulatory Authority.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में संचार विभाग में नियुक्तियां

7069. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान हिमाचल प्रदेश में संचार विभाग में विभिन्न श्रेणियों के अंतर्गत जिला-वार कितनी स्थायी और अस्थायी नियुक्तियां की गई हैं एवं तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और नियुक्त अभ्यर्थियों के नाम, पते तथा पद-नाम का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) उन अभ्यर्थियों की संख्या कितनी है जिनकी नियुक्ति रोजगार कार्यालय से नाम मंगवाकर तथा साक्षात्कार ले कर ही की है और उन व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिनके नाम रोजगार कार्यालय से प्राप्त न करके तदर्थ नियुक्तियां की गई हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क)

दूरसंचार जिले का नाम	नियुक्त किए गए उम्मीदवारों की संख्या
शिमला	15
सोलन	31
मंडी	12
धर्मशाला	59
हमीरपुर	55
सर्किल कार्यालय	146

उम्मीदवारों के नाम और पते अनुपत्र में दिये गए हैं इन सूचियों में उन दैनिक मजदूरों के नाम नहीं है जिन्हें सिंहाड़ी पर भर्ती किया गया है। (देखिये परिशिष्ट 173, अनुपत्र सं० 152)